Approved For Release 2002/11/13: CIA-RDP80B01676R000800040053-4
MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Dulles would like your views

on attached. He is inclined to sign

letter in present form.

concard

27 Feb

(DATE)

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\ 1 MAR 1961		
Victorial		
The Honorable Paul Nitre		
Assistant Secretary of Defense for International		
Security Affairs		
Department of Defense		
The Pentagen		
Washington, D. C.		
Dear Paul:		

I hope that SNIE 58-61, "Probable Communist Reaction to Certain US Courses of Action with Respect to Labe", which the intelligence community undertook at your request will serve your immediate needs.

I would like to suggest, however, that we do not let the matter rest here. My fear, which is shared by other members of the Board, is that the short time range of the assumptions underlying the paper focusses our attention on aspects of the Lactian situation other than those likely to be decisive in the long run. The intelligence community seems to be agreed that the communists intend to move at a rather leisurely pace in Laos. If this is correct we may find ourselves six months from now in exactly the same position we are today -- ruling out certain courses of action because they require advance preparations for which there is no time. We feel that a somewhat broader study, tocussed on the more basic and decisive aspects of the situation, might help you to make the kind of advance preparations that would permit more effective action later. I am thinking of such things as (1) the ability of the FAL (Forces Armees Laptiennes) to maintain sufficient discipline and morate over a confused and discouraging long haul, and (2) the effects of various possible longer range measures to shore up the combat and security capabilities of the non-communict side in Laos.

(EXECUTIVE 1. I. I. Meferse)

If you think there is merit in this idea, ISA. State Intelligence and Policy Officers, and CIA could informally talk over a longer range set of possible steps -- changing the status of the Program Evaluations Officers, training mixed Lao-Thai guerrilla teams, and other conceivable measures of this sort -- and give the intelligence community a fuller set of possible US sponsored measures to examine.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Drafted by INR (State)RHilsman (25 Feb. 61) First para. redrafted by ONE:SKent (28 Feb. 61)

Distribution:

Original and 1 - addressee
Mr. Roger Hilsman, INR, State
Signer's file
Secretary, USIB
ADONE

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